

DISC Newsletter

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DISC NEWSLETTER

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An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

Spyware by Doug Quinn

Recently at home, my daughter was complaining how slow her computer was working when accessing the Internet. I found out about a product to scan for spyware files and remove them from your home computer. The product can be downloaded for free.

Consequently the software found 525 data mining files on my daughter's computer at home. Once these files were eliminated, her computer worked fine.

The free download of software is at <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>. Download the Personal version. **Do not download to your work computer.** The software does not prevent spyware, it helps you detect the files and get rid of them.

This article explains what spyware is, how it affects a computer, and how to prevent spyware.

Spyware is a general term used for software that performs certain behaviors such as advertising, collecting personal information, or changing the configuration of your computer without obtaining your consent.. You might have spyware or other unwanted software on your computer if:

- You see pop-up advertisements even when you are not on the Web
- The page your Web browser first opens to, or your browser search settings have changed with out your knowledge.
- You notice a new toolbar in your browser that you didn't want, and find it difficult to get rid of.
- Your computer takes longer than usual to complete tasks.
- You experience a sudden rise in computer crashes.

There are a number of ways spyware or other unwanted software can get on your system.

A common trick is to covertly install the software during the installation of software you want, such as music or video file sharing program. Whenever you are installing something on your computer, make sure your carefully read all disclosures including the license agreement and privacy statement. Sometimes the inclusion of unwanted software in a given software installation is documented, but it may appear at the end of the license agreement or privacy statement.

There are several ways you can help protect your computer against spyware and other unwanted software.

Step 1: Update your software.

If you use Windows XP, be sure the Automatic Updates is turned on and that you have downloaded all the latest critical and security updates.

Step 2: Adjust Internet Explorer security settings.

You can adjust your Internet Explorer browser security settings to determine how much, or how little, information you are willing to accept from a Web site. Microsoft recommends that you set the security settings for the Internet zone to Medium or higher.

Step 3: Use a firewall.

A small amount of spyware can actually be placed on your computer remotely by hackers. Installing a firewall or using the firewall that is built into Windows XP provides a helpful defense against these hackers.

Step 4: Surf and download more safely.

The best defense against spyware is to not download in the first place. Here are a few tips that can protect you from downloading software you don't want.

- Only download programs from Web sites you trust.
- Never click "agree" or "OK" to close a window. Click the red "x" in the corner of the window or press **Alt + F4**.

Step 5: Download and install anti-spyware protection.



Jake's last day



***Jake's favorite shirt,
but not his dad's***

With my grandson, Zachary already six years old, my skills of caring for an infant were a little “rusty”. Within time, it all came back to me from diaper changing, bottle feeding, patty cake, to rocking the baby to sleep. For the past four months, for two hours each work day, I was involved in the care of Jake. Sharing duties with Aunt Susan and Uncle Bill, I looked forward to my “Jake Shift”.

Now that Jake is six months old he is the most popular “little guy” at the LSOB. He brought us lots of smiles and daily enjoyment to help pass time during the eight hour day.

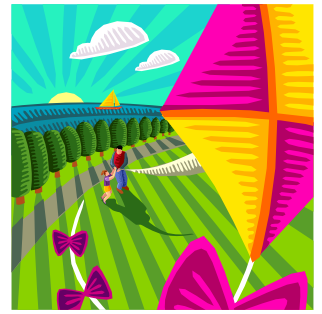
Bye Jake you are missed, come back and see us often. We anxiously wait for another baby like Jake to come along.

Connie Stroud



EMPLOYEE INFO

Happy April Birthdays to:



Dezi Gomez

Patty Copeland

Todd Pettit

Josh White

Dennis Sheets

Pam Rodecap

Kathy Kelley

Kelley Kuta

Tony Matalone

Sara Johnson

Helen Gibbon

Births

Ivan Weichert's
Grandson
Eli J.
3/1/05



Andy Dworak's
Daughter
Michaela Marie
2/12/05



New Employee

Lynn Moon
Central Mail
03/28/05



Welcome to DISC Lynn

Deaths

Charlotte Thompson's Brother
Desi Gomez's Father-In-Law
Pam Shadduck's Mother
Dave & Rick Willoughby's Mother



Sorry For Your Losses

Retirements

Mike Allen, March 5, 2005, 31 years with the state, almost 26 years with DISC.
Mike started in 1973 before PCs, Pagers, Cell Phones, or Computer Networks

Department of
Administration

**Division of Information
Systems and
Communications (DISC)**

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Meeting Our Customer's Needs

KUDOs

BOT

To: Craig Srna, Dan Glotzbach and the NCC

Just a note thanking you, Dan, and the folks at the NCC for all your help and riding the ATT & SWB folk thru till resolution of my trouble was found. We all know how they, AT&T and SWB, like to believe that the problem is in the other person's equipment.

From: Tom Holt, Telecommunications Manager, Pittsburg State University

BIS

To: Joe Hennes, Loren Westerdale and staff

It appears the Sun upgrade work is paying off. KDOR was able to recover the production table that was overlaid about a month or so ago on historical business registrations and that file is now successfully recovered in the KDOR production environment. The staff reports that tonight or very soon they will recover the entire KDOR production environment from last Friday night in the new Unix environment, that is a huge step forward for us to position our preliminary testing on the new environment.

Please let Joe, Loren and staffs know how pleased we are to be where we are today so that we can continue on the plan and hit our future milestones on this work.

From: Tim Blevins, CIO, KDOR

BAS

To: Gordon Lansford

I would like to thank you for taking time yesterday to present the KCJIS system to our Administrative Contacts. I heard several positive comments from the attendees stating they learned a lot.

Good Job.

From: Todd Reinert, Director of Information Services
Juvenile Justice Authority

Great Work Everyone !!!



***March 20, First
Day of Spring***

***Get Out and Fly
A Kite!***